

METHODISTS HEAR  
FINE REPORTS

(Continued from First Page.)

for missions if it is found that the assessments have not been paid up in full.

The Session Yesterday.

A small scattering of delegates and visitors were present in the auditorium when the Conference was called to order at 9:30 o'clock. The others were spread around on the outside or below in the basement, but they were not slow in coming in when it became known that the meeting was on. Several new delegates have arrived and the attendance is probably the largest time over 30, including the visitors.

Prayer was led by the Rev. Robert Watts, of Palmyra, after which the minutes of the preceding session were read and approved. A discussion of some minor points in connection with the minutes and gave signs of continuing ad infinitum, until the Bishop headed it off and prevented any further delay in the proceedings.

**CHARACTERS CALLED.**  
Question 20, "Are all the preachers blameless in their lives and in their ministrations?" was asked by the Bishop, and the name of Dr. J. Powell Garland, presiding elder of the Richmond District, was first called and passed.

In connection with his district Dr. Garland declared his charge to be in excellent condition, spiritually and numerically. Never before in his history has there been a more successful year. The assessments have been raised and more than raised. The salaries of the preachers of the churches are paid up. Additions have been made to the churches, making a very gratifying increase in the membership.

The report from the West Richmond District was submitted by Dr. J. V. Dor, whose name was called, and passed. One church has been dedicated during the year; another has been beautifully renovated and rededicated, and three smaller ones have been overhauled. There have been several signal revivals at which large numbers of converts have been produced. The assessments and running expenses are complete; there has been an especial advancement in missions. The interest in which is growing rapidly, and every preacher will report full collections. The spiritual condition of the district is excellent.

**MORE REPORTS FROM DISTRICTS.**  
Name followed name in rapid succession and were passed. Several interesting reports were made as follows:

**Richmond District.** Reported by the Rev. J. H. Amis, presiding elder, whose name was passed under the question. Mr. Amis has served four years and will leave this time. His report was therefore of no little interest. He reported that the year has hardly been a jar, and he has been much gratified at the brotherly love which has prevailed. The financial condition of the district is fine. Churches have handsome reports. During the twelve months there have been over 1,000 professions and reclamations. Mr. Amis concluded with the interesting statement that during his entire term he has not lost one member from sickness nor one from death.

**Lynchburg District** reported by Dr. Paul Whitehead, whose name was next passed. Like Mr. Amis, Dr. Whitehead has served his term and will have to go elsewhere and hence his report excited interest here. The condition of his district he declared to be most excellent. The spiritual and financial condition has been improved. The ministers are being better supported and the contributions will be in advance of those of last year. There have been many gracious revivals and many additions to the churches. The educational work is going on well. There has been a great revival of church building in the district.

**Portsmouth District** reported by the Rev. W. C. Vaden, presiding elder, whose name was passed. The statement from Mr. Vaden was declared by him to be the very finest ever sent out by the district. Several churches have paid their indebtedness in part or in full. One new church has been built, and two others are under way. Three parsonages have been erected. Nearly every church will pay up full on the assessments. One church, which paid a little over 25 per cent. last year, will pay over 100 per cent. this year. There will be four years at Portsmouth and will have to be transferred there from this year.

**Charlottesville District.** J. D. Hank, chairman passed. Reported hardest year. Ten days travelled 500 miles and preached fourteen times. The year has been a loyal and devoted. One thousand conversions on district. One new parsonage built. Two old parsonages sold and two new ones bought, one costing \$2,000. Only one town in district. Finances in every respect better than ever before.

**Danville District.** J. C. Reid, character passed. Work slow, sure and steady. Churches repaired and some new ones. Good revivals. Collections considerably in advance of those of last year. **Fredericksburg District.** Rev. R. F. Wilson, character passed. Finances good. Revival interest very general. In two cases there were great revivals. Wesley Church—extraordinary results; Rev. Thomas took hold when more or less organized, and built fine new church. **Marshall Street Church** has spent \$5,000 for improvements. Blackstone has new church. Finances in advance of last year. Rev. J. C. Cannon's success in school has been phenomenal. Petersburg, Virginia, has every student in school accommodated.

**Norfolk District.** Rev. W. E. Jenkins, character passed. Two preachers dead—Rev. R. E. Barrett and H. C. Cheatham. One new church at Ghent. One new church at Park Place. Two new parsonages built and many repairs. Several churches have paid salaries in full. Conference collections paid beyond last year. The largest and wealthiest district in conference.

**CALLING THE SUPERNUMERARIES.**  
The names of the supernumeraries were called and passed. The Rev. H. T. Bason, heading the list. Others were W. F. Bone, T. J. Boyton, C. H. Boggs, H. C. Bowles, James P. Brannin, John W. Crider, R. N. Crooks, John B. Dey, J. E. Gates, A. M. Hall, R. G. James, W. P. Jordan, A. A. Lancham, J. P. Moore, E. H. Early, C. H. Early, J. C. Watson, C. C. Wertenbaker, J. T. Woodward, J. E. MacSparrin, J. R. Gill, James O. Moss, F. W. Proctor, C. W. Cain, W. H. Camper.

As they were taken up one by one the names were referred to the Committee on Conference Relations for continuation of the supernumerary. A few were reported dead, and their names went to the Committee on Memorials. Several of the ministers called were present and made interesting and in some cases pathetic statements of their condition. The most of them are aged or infirm and are unable to work. Many could not come to the Conference at all because they were too feeble to travel. A few of the supernumeraries reported an improvement in their health and a hope that they may soon be able to get back to their pastoral duties.

These hopeful ones were the Rev. C. C. Wertenbaker, who will in all probability return this year to the effective list. The supernumeraries were called and passed as follows: Rev. Joseph A. Proctor and Rev. J. H. Bason.

**VISITORS INTRODUCED.**  
Among the visitors introduced at this point by Bishop Duncan were the Rev. Mr. Bingham, one of the agents of the

Publishing House; Dr. J. D. Hammond, Secretary of the Board of Education of the General Conference; and the Rev. Dr. J. E. Armstrong, of the Baltimore Conference. The latter made a short talk, appealing for the erection of a suitable church at Blackstone for the benefit of the students of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Other denominations have suitable houses of worship and the same should be the case with the Methodists.

A resolution endorsing and commending the Harbor Mission work at Hampton Roads by the Rev. Mr. Steele was offered by the Rev. Mr. Peters and upon his request was laid upon the table until to-morrow morning, when Mr. Steele hoped to be present and make a short address.

**BISHOP'S ANNOUNCEMENT.**  
The name of the Rev. Dr. E. L. Pell, now with the B. F. Johnson Publishing Company, was called and his character was passed.

In connection with the case of Dr. Pell, Bishop Duncan took occasion to make an important announcement. He had to come to an end with the present session of the Virginia Conference. The General Conference has legislated upon the question and its law will now go into effect. The Bishop said he made this statement in open conference, but he thought it should be understood from the outset.

Since there will be no more nominal appointments, the name of Dr. Pell was referred to the Committee on Conference Relations for the supernumerary relation.

**MORE REPORTS FROM CHURCHES.**  
Minute question 20 was reverted to and a number of ministers were passed upon their character. Among them were the following, who submitted brief reports of their churches:

Rev. W. B. report of Broad-Street, reported a pleasant year. Collections in full. Missionary overpaid. Net increase, \$3. And we think we have the best Sunday school in the city.

T. E. Johnson reported improvement on W. C. report. 252 twenty-five conversions, fifteen additions; net decrease of thirty-three, resulting from a correction of the register.

J. E. DeShazo: Fairly successful year. W. W. Leaz: Net increase small. All collections in full. Conversions about 40.

C. R. James reported Whitestone in fine condition. All collections in full and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society paid \$5.

J. W. Hickman had the best year of the life. The collections a little short. W. H. Edwards, of Charlottesville, reported a good year.

Thomas H. Campbell reported not up on all the collections. Twenty-eight professions; net increase of eighteen. T. H. Whitehead reports large net decrease. Have now well nigh a bona fide roll. Large Sunday school; twenty-four conversions. Railed for all, \$9,562.16—\$23.46 per member.

The entire church debt—\$58,000—paid and the rest left over. Of all money subscribed, not a cent was left unpaid on the day of payment.

Dr. Whitehead made remarks commending Brother Whitehead's remarkable work. Dr. Young, 30 conversions; 30 accessions; net gain, net gain, \$23,234.83; the new church completed, and will be dedicated next Sunday week.

T. McMillan, collections paid in full; good revivals; a successful year. S. C. Star, net gain, 22; a good year; 40 conversions; 37 accessions.

P. M. Beckham had a good year. B. F. Lipscomb was in Petersburg nine months; at work at the college three months.

D. C. C. Butts, from the Gloucester Circuit, reported the close of his fourth year, the happiest and, in some respects, the saddest of his life. But out of it all the Lord hath delivered him. The people stood by him in his work and he has been overpaying his salary, paid his medical bill of \$137.50. All collections paid except a small deficiency. The Rosebuds had paid \$26.27 and are supporting a little girl out at our orphanage.

W. C. Star, Washington-Street, Petersburg, 500 members on the roll; fine year, and large contributions.

**UNWISE AND DISSIPATING.**  
Not a little interest was manifested in a discussion by the way which developed in connection with the report of the Rev. Mr. Edwards, of Charlottesville. In response to a query from the Bishops, Mr. Edwards stated that the University of Virginia has no chapel, but depended upon ministers from different sections of the country, who are regularly invited to the church.

The Bishop appeared to be somewhat surprised. "It is an unwise and dissipated practice," he said. "There should always be a chapel. When reminded by Dr. Paul Whitehead that the University is not a Methodist institution, the Bishop replied that Methodists are Virginians."

The Rev. Herbert M. Hope made a brief statement in behalf of the University, setting forth the while different ministrations which are being carried on by the religious work and looks after the spiritual welfare of the students. This man devotes himself entirely to the matter and has made a success of it.

By way of concluding the little discussion, Bishop Duncan said he hoped he would not be understood as criticizing the University. A Richmond editor said he had mistaken his idea yesterday in reference to unwise marriages. The young man he spoke of had obligation, moral or legal, to marry the girl he had been engaged to. The Bishop supposed, however, the editor was anxious for something to write about.

**CLASS OF FIRST YEAR.**  
The Committee and Class of the First Year was called and names were passed upon as follows: Hugh J. Taylor, of the Carteret District; Geo. T. Powell, of the Danville District; Geo. T. Forrester, of Rappahannock District; Leroy W. Guyer, Norman R. Smith, Henry C. Gregory, John J. Bradford, Thomas J. C. Heath, Joseph E. Hearn, J. E. McArthur.

Each of the young men made brief but interesting reports. The Presiding Elders of each district spoke of the character and prospects of them. They are now admitted to the class of the second year.

**AMUSING INCIDENT.**  
An amusing incident developed just here. The Rev. Mr. Atwill, of Calvary Church, Danville, had had something to say already and wished say more. He called for recognition, but the Bishop was busy and would not stop. He called the name of Mr. Guyer, of the class of the first year, but he was out. Meanwhile Mr. Atwill continued to obtain the floor and finally the Bishop turned to him and sent him out to find Mr. Guyer. He said if he brought back the recalcitrant he would be recognized.

A moment later he came up and the middle aisle solemnly walking, came Mr. Atwill holding Mr. Guyer by the left arm. The Conference was convulsed with laughter, and it was a moment or two before the tumult could be quieted. Bishop Duncan glanced over his spectacles at the twin in the aisle and finally said: "We all think Brother Atwill should be promptly recognized and on behalf of the High Sheriff of the Virginia Conference."

Amid a roar of laughter, the new offering retired to his seat.

**SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS.**  
A resolution was offered by Dr. Tudor endorsing the scheme of Dr. Armstrong to erect a suitable church at Blackstone. It was unanimously adopted.

A resolution offered by the Rev. R. M. M. in connection with announcements, etc., was lost. Mr. Macey said he hoped by the resolution to help still the confusion, which has prevailed during the conference.

At this juncture Professor R. E. Blackwell, president of Randolph-Macon College, was introduced and on behalf of the

trustees of the institution he extended invitation to the conference to pay a visit to the college this afternoon. The invitation was unanimously and heartily accepted. A special train was run at three o'clock this afternoon from the Elba Station and will return about 6 o'clock. Probably 300 delegates indicated an intention to take advantage of the trip.

**THE SESSION ENDS.**

The trustees of the hall fund reported \$149.07, which they were ordered to pay over to the treasurer of the Joint Board of Finance.

The committees of second and third year were called, but announced that they were not ready.

Section 12. What traveling preachers are elected elders? R. L. Busby, W. L. Murphy and William G. Burch, passed in examination of character and were elected to elders orders.

A telegram from the Rev. Mr. Atkins, secretary of the Sunday-school Board, was read. Mr. Atkins said he could not be here on account of sickness in his family.

Various announcements the conference adjourned until this morning.

**REBUKED THE LADIES.**  
The feature of this session of yesterday was the disorder which prevailed throughout. Bishop Duncan exhibited considerable impatience, and though he tried long and often to preserve quiet, he had to succeed.

The chief offenders were two or three ladies, who persisted in talking from start to finish, and thereby interrupting the transactions of the body. It began early in the morning. The Bishop stopped a speaker in the middle of his talk and asked the ladies to be quiet. He spoke, he said, in all kindness; he regretted exceedingly that he had to use the gavel and call to order; he delighted to have the ladies and the other visitors here, but they must know that he could not permit them to interrupt. He talked and talked and talked while the Conference waited for him to get through. It is an imposition upon the courtesy of the Conference, which is not a performance for the amusement.

Barely had the Bishop concluded when the voices of the women, described by the bishop as "sharp and incisive with not a semblance of the Annie Laurie tone in them," were heard again. And thus it went, the Bishop failing. The bishop, growing more and more impatient, tried to stop the thing, but could not. At the opening of the session he had invoked the presence of the spirit of Bishop Asbury as a means of keeping things in order; he now declared that the spirit of Asbury was as far west as California, but he had met with nothing equal to this. He invited those who wished to talk to leave and repair to the basement below.

At the end of the session in the afternoon the session was very little improved and Bishop Duncan made a final announcement. It was to the effect that tomorrow there will be different arrangements. There will be no more sessions, but apart for the conference, and just as delegates will be allowed within the bounds.

**Committees in the Afternoon.**  
All the committees and boards met yesterday afternoon as is usual on each day of the conference until the reports are gotten in shape. Organization has been effected in the majority of cases and work is beginning in earnest.

The Bishop and his council met again at the residence of Dr. J. C. Clark, and nothing can be gathered as to the progress of the work in this direction. The sessions of the body, which to the ministers are probably the most important of the Conference, are strictly confidential, and no statements are ever made as to the transactions of this inner court. It is said, however, that the council has not gotten down yet to the appointments, and that it will not do so for a day or so yet. It is chiefly interested just now about the arrangements of the districts for the coming year.

The Committee on Publishing Interests met in the afternoon in the auditorium of the Board of Christian Education. Frank Talbot, of Danville, was elected chairman, and the Rev. R. M. Macey, of this city, secretary. The committee has great interests in the Christian Education of the South, and the Rev. R. M. Macey, of this city, secretary. The committee has great interests in the Christian Education of the South, and the Rev. R. M. Macey, of this city, secretary.

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toward the house, and as she approached it the wand began to tremble and shake. This is when the spirit is getting into the paper. Then when the wand has shaken and trembled a great deal and the spirit is thought to be comfortably lodged the paper is taken off and stuck up on the wall. Thereafter the occupants worship the little scrap.

This hideous religion has absolute sway over the women, and in this connection Dr. Reid took occasion to refer to the blessings enjoyed by the women who have turned their backs on the life of degradation and crime. In these strange rations and shame.

**STRANGE AND WEIRD TALES.**  
Like a tale from the pages of romance sounded Dr. Reid's account of the manner in which the Christian religion got into Korea; how the first missionary, a Chinaman; how he was beheaded; how a Korean woman, also thrown into prison, wrote his history on her silk dress, and thus preserved the immortal record; how the first Protestant missionary happened to be able to enter the country; how he became friendly with the royal household and thus established himself as an important personage, so that up to this day the missionaries are called "Your Excellency"; how in 1856 the Southern Methodists entered the field, and how the work has prospered up to the present time.

Strange and weird tales and sometimes amusing were the statements made. The breathless attention of the audience during some parts of the address gave sufficient testimony of its great interest.

**DIDN'T WANT TO BE WASHED.**  
There was one particularly funny thing which Dr. Reid said has happened to himself and the other missionaries in the language. It is impossible to get the English ideas expressed just right in Korean. Thus the only Korean word for baptize means "wash" to the natives of the country. Now, if there is one thing on earth the Koreans are more than ready to do, it is to wash. They will wash their faces, their hands, their feet, and their bodies. They will wash their clothes, and they will wash their souls. They will wash their souls, and they will wash their souls. They will wash their souls, and they will wash their souls.

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